



# NJ National Guard Child & Youth Program News

*APRIL is  
Month of the Military Child –  
Thank a military child  
today!!!*

State Family Programs Office  
Joint Military & Family Assistance Center  
**April, 2014**

*If you would like  
to receive the  
newsletter and other  
useful emails directly,  
please provide your  
email address to  
Amanda Balas  
and she will gladly  
add it to the  
Child & Youth  
distribution list.*

Newsletter Written &  
Prepared By:

Amanda Balas  
amanda.m.balas.ctr@mail.mil  
Cell: 609-513-6403

&

Nicole Morgan-Lewis  
nicole.l.morgan-  
lewis.ctr@mail.mil  
Cell: 609-513-5841

Child & Youth Program  
Coordinators  
~COG Contractors~

Mailing Address:  
1048 US Highway 206  
Bordentown NJ 08505

Toll Free: 1-888-859-0352

A colorful poster for "Young Lives, BIG Stories". The background is blue with faint line drawings of various household items. At the top, a red banner says "April 2014" and "Month of the Military Child". The title "YOUNG LIVES, BIG STORIES" is in large, bold, blue letters, with a child's head inside the 'Y', a man standing inside the 'BIG', and a child inside the 'S'. Below the title, a red banner says "Share Your Story!". Underneath that, a white box contains the text: "Share what it's like to be a Military Child through words, drawings, photos or video for a chance to win great prizes! Visit ARMYMWR.com/MOMC to enter and learn more." The hashtag "#MOMC" is also present. At the bottom, there are logos for the U.S. Army, the MWR (Military &amp; Family Welfare) program, and a small image of a child's face in the bottom right corner.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!!!**

[www.Facebook.com/NJNGChildandYouthProgram](http://www.Facebook.com/NJNGChildandYouthProgram)

**\*\*Please know that our office at the Joint Military & Family Assistance Center located on US Highway 206 in Bordentown is temporarily closed for renovations. Our office phone numbers have been temporarily disconnected for the time being, so please email or call our cell phones to get in touch with us. We hope to be back in our office by summer. Thank you ~ Amanda & Nicole**

**PURPLE UP!!!**  
**Show your support for**  
**MILITARY YOUTH**  
**by wearing purple on**  
**Tuesday April 15, 2014**

## **NJ National Guard Youth Camp**

### **July 13-19, 2014**

Come out for a week of fun and celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year holding Camp by the beautiful beach in Sea Girt, NJ. This Camp is a week-long, residential Camp for military youth. Camp for youth ages 9 - 15 will be from 13-19 July 2014.

**\*\*Counselor Training will take place on Saturday 21 June 2014 from 10:00am until 3:30pm at the Woodbridge Armory (625 Main St. Woodbridge, NJ)\*\***

**The application deadline this year is May 15, 2014. Please ensure that you get your medical forms in as soon as possible to ensure a slot for your child(ren)**

COST: \$150.00 per Camper/CIT. If you use our online payment method, a \$5.00 processing fee is charged to cover costs. If writing check, please make it payable to: *NJNG Family Programs Local Fund*. This fee supplements the cost of camper gear as well as activities and meals. REFUND: \$100.00 refund if child cancels more than 14 days before camp, no refund if child cancels within 14 days of camp. If refund is required, the returned check will NOT be issued until the week after Youth Camp.

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth\\_camp.html](http://www.nj.gov/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html)

To apply today, please visit:

<http://njngyouthcamp.org/>

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Balas  
~ NJ National Guard Child & Youth Coordinator ~ at  
[amanda.m.balas.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:amanda.m.balas.ctr@mail.mil)





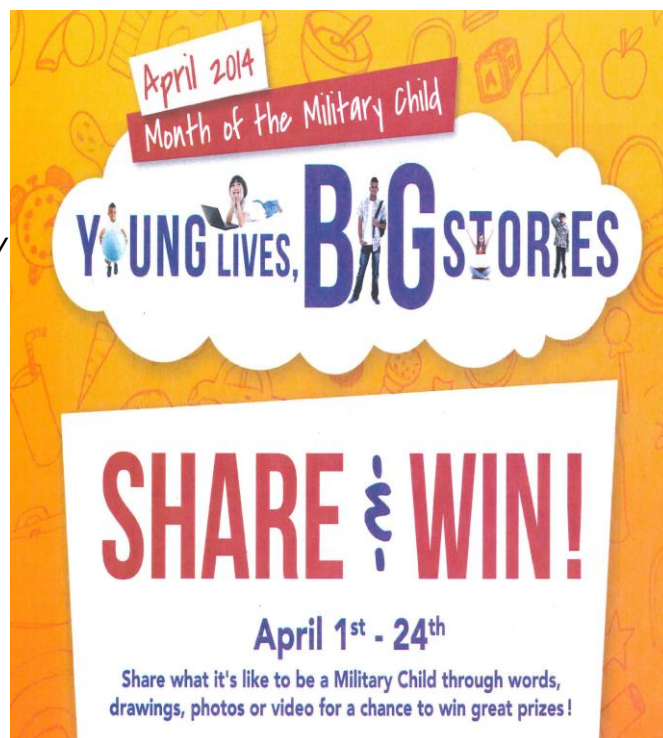
## Calling all Army Kids (AD, NG & Reserve)!!!!

Share your story on what it is like to be a military child through photographs, drawings, words, or video for a chance to win some really cool prizes! The Young Lives, BIG Stories contest is open to all military children Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Youth participants will have the option of telling their story on 'what it means to be a military child' through photos, words, drawings or videos. The goal of this contest is to tell the Army's story through the eyes of our children.

Prizes will be given to one overall winner and the top entries in each category. Prizes may include iPad, Xbox One, Wii Mini, Disney Tablets, and GRAND PRIZE will be an Apple Laptop!

Interested participants should visit <http://www.armymwr.com/momc-big-stories.aspx> for entry/release forms, complete details and the 5 age categories.

The Young Lives, Big Stories contest runs April 1-24, 2014. All submissions must be submitted by 11:59pm CST on April 24, 2014. Winners will be announced in May.



**You are invited to attend the upcoming *Responding to the Military Child with Exceptional Needs Institute (RMCEN)*.** The military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), a nonprofit organization addressing the educational needs of children in military families, presents the training. This 2 day institute, formerly known as *Special Educators Leadership Institute (SELI)*, prepares professional educators, social service providers, parents, and community leader to address the additional challenges associated with transitioning military-connected students with exceptional needs. For the purpose of this course, children with exceptional needs are defined as those who need either special education services or gifted education services to maximize their individual potential, with special emphasis on the importance of synchronization of services during transitions.

**DATE & TIME:** Tuesday April 29 & Wednesday April 30, 2014  
 Registration & Breakfast: 8:00-8:30am  
 Institute Training: 8:30am-4:00pm (includes a working lunch)

**PLACE:** Military Family Support Center (McGuire-Dix Room)  
 3435 Broidy Road Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst, NJ 08641

**SPONSOR:** Funded by the AF; NO COST to participants

Log on to [militarychild.org/training](http://militarychild.org/training) to register today!!!

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** For more information about this training, other professional development opportunities or learner support, please contact Myriam Virella at 254-953-1923 x1119 or [myriam.virella@militarychild.org](mailto:myriam.virella@militarychild.org)

# **“Celebrating Military Children”**

## **Sunday May 4, 2014 (1-4pm)**

**Mt. Laurel YMCA - 59 Centerton Rd Mount Laurel, NJ 08054**  
**(across from Wegmans/Costco Shopping Center)**



**In partnership with NJ Operation: Military Kids (OMK)**



**WHO:** ALL military youth + 1 friend

**WHAT:** An afternoon of fun at the YMCA to include Swimming, Arts & Crafts, Dancing, Basketball (just to name a few)

**WHEN:** Sunday May 4, 2014 from 1:00-4:00pm

**REGISTER:** Deadline is Wednesday April 30 (60 slots available)  
Please fill out the one page permission slip and email it to Amanda Balas at [amanda.m.balas.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:amanda.m.balas.ctr@mail.mil) or fax it to her at 609-562-0935

---

## Useful Websites



**Resiliency for the Whole Guard Family** Ready54 is brought to you by the Air National Guard Safety Directorate. Ready54 welcomes Air & Army National Guard Members and their families from all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia. The categories featured on this website incorporate the key areas of resilience from both the Air Force's Comprehensive Airman Fitness and the Army's Comprehensive Soldier & Family Fitness programs that include Social, Spiritual, Mental, Family, Physical programs. For more information, visit [www.ready54.org](http://www.ready54.org)



Guard Your Health provides a central place for Army National Guard Soldiers and family members to find information and resources on health and medical readiness. The site supports the Army National Guard Chief Surgeon's efforts to build and sustain a resilient, adaptable and medically ready Citizen-Soldier force

Army National Guard Soldiers wear at least two caps: they are Citizens *and* Soldiers. This creates unique challenges—from balancing civilian jobs and family activities with monthly drill weekends, to mobilizing and deploying outside base support systems. Army Guard Soldiers routinely do it all with limited access to Army facilities and programs. Our goal is to give Army National Guard Soldiers the information, motivation and support to overcome these challenges and make healthy decisions for themselves, their families and their units. For more information, visit [www.guardyourhealth.com](http://www.guardyourhealth.com)

---